



# DUBROVAČKE LJETNE IGRE DUBROVNIK SUMMER FESTIVAL

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ALL SET FOR THE OPENING

## The Dubrovnik Summer Festival Starts Tomorrow!

**Dubrovnik, 9 July 2023** – The raising of the *Libertas* flag to the *Hymn to Liberty* verses tomorrow, **10 July at 9 pm in front of St Blaise's Church**, will mark the grand opening of the 74<sup>th</sup> Dubrovnik Summer Festival, held traditionally from **10 July to 25 August** across Dubrovnik's various site-specific stages and locations.

This summer, the grand opening ceremony, set in front of St Blaise's Church as is tradition, will be directed by the Festival's Assistant Artistic Director for Theatre **Saša Božić** based on a script he co-wrote with theatre artist **Nataša Dangubić**.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival opening ceremony has grown from the collective memory of *poklade*, the traditional Shrovetide carnival season and a time of the year when travelling actors, troubadours and other artists could enter the City and entertain the citizenry with their plays and performances until Ash Wednesday. The Rector of the Republic of Ragusa gives the actors keys to the City symbolically allowing them to perform in the City. This programme returns to its core tenets: the urban ritual and the traditional foundation of the opening ceremony which includes artists from the Festival Drama Ensemble, musicians, students, and Lindo Folklore Ensemble. The opening deals with the basic premises of urban Dubrovnik – the City's recent history, with commentary by theatre artist Nataša Dangubić representing the citizens of Dubrovnik. – Božić pointed out.

Performing alongside the **Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra**, under the baton of maestro **Tomislav Fačini**, are the **Libertas Mixed Choir**, **Dubrovnik Chamber Choir**, **Pro musica Mostar Academic Choir**, **Blasius Choir**, as well as **Slavenko Prizmić**, **Ivan Kušelj**, **Antun Puljizević** and **Matija Slomović** fanfares, **Vicko Dragojević** and **Marko Šilje** on mandolins, and the youngest singers **Marijeta Bošković** and b. Part of the grand opening ceremony are also the **Festival Drama Ensemble**, **acting students from the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb and Split**, **Lero Student Theatre**, **Kolarin Theatre Troupe**, **Lindo Folklore Ensemble**, and **Lazareti Dance Studio**. The ceremony can be followed live as it will be broadcast by the Croatian Radio and Television.

In the upcoming 47 days, the Festival offer its large local and foreign audience almost 70 theatre, music, dance, folklore, and other events, and the first one is the day after the opening, on **11 July at 9 pm in the Sponza Palace atrium** – the first exhibition at the 74<sup>th</sup>

Festival, a cycle entitled *Lightness of Youth*, by the Croatian painter and graphic artist **Fadil Vejzović**.

Before the opening ceremony itself is the traditional dress rehearsal, open to the public and especially beloved by locals, set for tonight, **9 July at midnight**.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival – the centre of Croatian and global spirit and culture, a place of creation and not just a place of visit, a place of community, ideas and new artistic expressions, is traditionally supported once again this year by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county, Dubrovnik Tourist Board and numerous sponsors Mastercard, Dubrovnik Airport, ACI club, ALH, Euroherc, Studenac, HEP, Croatian Lottery, Coca-Cola, MG Motors, Kraš, Croatia Airlines, and donors OTP bank, Atlantska Plovidba alongside other benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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